GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:169
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
MOST FAVOURED NATION STATUS
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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(a) whether Pakistan has ruled out the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India; (

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; (

(c) whether according to a report, India had granted the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan unilaterally and asked Islamabad to reciprocate it; and

(d) if so, the reasons behind India granting the Most Favoured Nation status to Pakistan unilaterally?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a&b) Contrary to its obligations, including under the WTO, Pakistan has not yet extended MFN treatment to India and has, inter-alia, cited extraneous security, political and economic reasons for this.

(c&d) India has accorded MFN status to Pakistan in conformity with its general approach.Government has drawn attention to Pakistan`s obligation to grant MFN status to India, and for this step to serve as an indicator of Pakistan`s intention to have normal trade and economic relations if it is to be seen to be committed to improving bilateral and regional economic cooperation.